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TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1915.

## A Line o' Cheer Each Day o' the Year.

By JOHN KENDRICK BANGS.

First printing of an original poem, written daily for The Washington Herald.

### A CAPTIVE SONG.

I could not cage a singing bird,  
But when his morning song is heard  
Sometimes I think its magic art  
I'd like to cage within my heart.  
To send me singing on my way  
With joy the keynote of the day.

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Cable dispatches say the seismographs record a severe earthquake in Southern Europe. How do they know it was an earthquake?

Another life has been suddenly sacrificed to the pistol that "wasn't loaded," carelessly left within reach of a child. Do you keep a pistol in your house? If you do, lock it up this morning and keep it locked up where children and fools can't put their hands on it.

A California man is suing his wife for divorce on the ground of cruelty, charging that she, as a director of a corporation of which he was manager and treasurer, cast the vote that removed him from his position. In other words, having been fired himself, he now wants to fire the boss.

The United States government wants to hire a number of expert cheese-makers, who can speak German fluently, for experimental work in the manufacture of Swiss, Camembert, Rochefort and other foreign cheeses. But there may be trouble in the germ in the Rochefort recent being addressed in German.

Three "honor squad" men have taken leisurely leave of Joliet prison, one of them having announced that he no longer considered himself honor bound when the warden resigned. Probably one of the first acts of the new warden will be to declare that he is not bound by the system established by his predecessor.

The Chicago authorities have given women permission to bathe in the lake without wearing stockings and Atlantic City policemen have been ordered to stop measuring bathing skirts to ascertain whether they reach within three inches of the knee. In some cases men may be easily persuaded to recognize women's rights.

The Czar has rejected an overture from the Kaiser for separate peace, but Germany's mouthpiece in Washington suggests an inducement that Russia will hardly be able to resist. "Constantinople," it solemnly announces, "is a gift worth having, and Germany can give it to Russia if she likes." There may be something doing as soon as this suggestion reaches Berlin.

"As is well known," boasts Representative Buchanan, of Illinois, "I was taken from the ranks of America's toilers to serve them in the hall of Congress." Some other members of the House are not likely to agree that they were taken from the ranks of toilers when they were sent to Congress, and if Mr. Buchanan's constituents discover that he finds his present job so "soft" it may be that they will decide to put him back.

In the official announcement of the sinking of one of its battleships the Turkish government makes the comment that "the loss of the Barbarossa, which was sunk this morning, however regrettable in itself, does not affect us excessively except that it places the strength of our ships compared to that of the enemy in the ratio of one to ten." Funny as it sounds, it was not intended for humor. If Turkey had been forced to depend on battleships to defend the Dardanelles the contest wouldn't have lasted an hour.

George H. Downey will take from the office of Controller of the Treasury to the bench of the United States Court of Claims a great deal of valuable experience gained in adjusting a multitude of charges against the government, though of a trivial nature compared with those which will come before him in his new position. It's a long jump from deciding whether a tip from a traveling agent of Uncle Sam to a Pullman porter is a legitimate item of expense, to determining whether or not the Postoffice Department owes the railroads a few million dollars for carrying the parcel post.

The public has stood for a lot of announcements from the wise men of the University of Pennsylvania about the habits of the earth's earliest inhabitants, though with an occasional suspicion that it was being made fun of. And now comes the solemn assertion that a translation of an inscription on a tablet in the university museum acquits Eve and convicts old man Noah of eating the apple and tumbling man and woman down from their high estate. We may as well confess to a suspicion that there is a George Bernard Shaw in the University of Pennsylvania who laughs ghoulishly when he reads the first page headlines in the newspapers the day after he announces a "discovery." At any rate, we place no value on the latest revelation, because it is admitted that it is based upon a more modern version of the apple incident, the inscription having been placed on the tablet as recently as 4,000 or 5,000 years ago, whereas the university sharps place the flood at 35,000 B. C.

## An Attack Labor Should Repudiate.

The Secretary to the President, Mr. Joseph P. Tumulty, has rendered a service to organized labor, if not to the whole people, in making public an impudent letter from Representative Frank Buchanan, Democrat, of Illinois, assailing President Wilson and insinuating that his policy of strict neutrality toward the warring nations of Europe is influenced by "big business" interests. Under any circumstances such a letter from a Representative in Congress of the President's own party would be difficult to justify. The motives which inspired Representative Buchanan are indefensible. The letter was written because the President had declined to receive a committee which Mr. Buchanan stated represented the so-called Labor's National Peace Council, the explanation given Mr. Buchanan by Secretary Tumulty being that the President's time was too much occupied with vital affairs of State demanding his undivided attention. Though this reason was sufficient, it is more than probable that the President himself may have had another and stronger one for not desiring to receive the committee.

The activities of Labor's National Peace Council have included attempts to influence the administration to violate this nation's neutrality by placing an embargo on the shipment of munitions of war to Europe, efforts to stop the sailing from our ports of merchant ships loaded with miscellaneous cargoes and the filing of absurd charges of conspiracy against certain bankers who were influential in arranging loans of American money to foreign countries. It was established long ago that in using the name of labor the council was masquerading, that it was not in any way affiliated with organized labor. More recently it was proven that the council is supported by German money, that it was seeking to bring about a change in the policies of the United States government in the interest of Germany. It was sheer effrontery to ask the President of the United States to give a hearing to a committee representing an organization sailing under false colors, and to listen to demands from supposed Americans, in behalf of Germany, such as the Berlin government has not made hold to present.

And yet Representative Buchanan in his scurrilous letter represents the President's refusal to receive such a committee. He writes to Secretary Tumulty:

"Your intimation that the President's time was so fully taken up with matters of pressing importance that he could not grant an audience to representatives of labor, that has made the United States of America the proud nation that it is, in order to permit them in person to demonstrate that the subsidized press, representing enormous dollars in America, which is seeking to serve as the volunteer advisor of the President, was misrepresenting labor's attitude in the present crisis, is tantamount to a declaration that the President is more concerned about the desires of big business than he is to discover the heartfelt sentiment of the common people."

It has been shown that Labor's National Peace Council does not represent organized labor. It is now for Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, and his advisers, to determine whether that organization should permit Mr. Buchanan to represent himself as speaking for labor when he impugns the motives of the President of the United States. The character of Labor's National Peace Council has been clearly shown and its usefulness to Germany ended, but the responsibility of its organizers and promoters to public opinion has not been discharged, nor should they be permitted to utter calumnies in the name of any organization of Americans.

## Citizens May Give Aid to Justice.

A citizen of Washington, whose name was not disclosed, voluntarily presented himself at the District Attorney's office yesterday and announced that he was prepared to swear to information concerning corruption in the police department outside the precinct involved in the original charges of graft which are now being investigated. It has not yet been ascertained whether the information he gave the officials is important, or whether it belongs with the trivial complaints, that are being received daily by mail and telephone; but District Attorney Laskey and his assistants are acting wisely in investigating everything in the nature of a clue, in order that their work may be thoroughly done. A great deal of evidence has already been accumulated which, while not warranting criminal proceedings, will be of the utmost value to the Superintendent of Police in any house cleaning that he may decide to undertake later on. At the present time it is the duty of every resident of Washington who has the welfare of the Capital at heart and who is in possession of information pointing to corruption or misconduct on the part of any member of the police force, to place the evidence in the hands of the District Attorney or the Superintendent of Police. If this course is followed it will be a simple matter to speedily punish the guilty and remove from the force the stigma that necessarily attaches to it while the investigation is in progress and which falls even upon the honest, upright and efficient officers who constitute the very large majority of the force.

## All that Is Left of It.

Gradually it is being discovered that the La Follette seamen's bill, which is to go into effect next November, can be depended upon to accomplish nothing but the destruction of our merchant shipping. At the time of the Eastland disaster the offhand assertion of a La Follette disciple, that if the law had been in operation there would have been no loss of life, was widely circulated and as quickly denied by experts who declared that no provision of the La Follette law could have robbed the catastrophe of a single horror. And now comes the announcement that the law officials of the administration are agreed that the law does not apply to foreign ships entering our ports. Though this view was told from the first by those who studied the law closely it was a fond boast of its advocates that we were going to do terrible things to the foreign shipping interests. The decision that the laws cannot be applied to foreign craft, soon to be announced by the attorney general, should end all doubt as to what the effect on American shipping will be. The President is said to be studying the measure, and even though it was one of his particular pets last year, he can but be impelled to seek its repeal in view of what a deeper scrutiny, in the light of a better knowledge, must reveal.

## Personality in Acting.

By JOHN D. BARRY.

The other night I listened to a talk on acting and actors that interested me very much. All persons who took part were experienced playgoers and had decided views. In their estimate of actors most of them placed emphasis on versatility. They seemed to think it was the highest and the most important quality that could be possessed by an actor. Several actors were criticised for the reason that the minute they came on the stage they could be recognized. Others were praised for their skill in disguising themselves. Henry Irving was held up as an illustration of a man who, the minute he showed himself, was known to be Henry Irving. No disguise could have made him unfamiliar. And the moment he spoke those who had seen him before, even those who had seen him once only, could not have failed to detect him through the nasal tones and the drawl.

As the talk went on I was reminded of a scene that I once happened to witness in a house where Richard Mansfield, the actor, was a guest. He was surrounded with admirers questioning him about his work. One of them mentioned that as Baron Chevalier in "The Parisian Romance," the part that, after one performance, made him famous, he perfectly concealed his personality. Mansfield was apparently pleased. "If a stranger were to come to my theater night after night," he asked, "one who had never seen me before and had never heard of me, and were to watch me in a new impersonation each night, would he recognize me as the same man?"

From that group there rose an apparently spontaneous reply: "Oh, no, Mr. Mansfield."

At the time I wondered how many of those speakers were sincere. And among those who were I wondered how many thought they were paying the actor a great compliment.

During the past few years it has become a fashion among theatrical managers to cast plays according to type. Before selecting the actors they decide just what kind of personality will suit each part, in looks, bearing and speech. To many actors the practice is exceedingly irritating. They feel that it degrades them as artists, by putting their work on a basis largely physical. They believe that, by means of their versatility, they can play a wide range of parts. They take pride in winning success as characters very different from their own. They sometimes ask if there can be anything left in their art when they are chosen to appear only in those characters they happen to resemble, when all they have to do is to go on and to be themselves. And if they are forced to keep on playing themselves how are they to grow in their work?

In this regard, however, there are some exceptions among actors. One is Miss Ellen Terry, who, besides being full of talent, is also a woman of fine intelligence and artistic understanding, different from many temperamental performers in being able to take a detached attitude toward her work, and to philosophize about it. She frankly says that actors who, in looks or in temperament, are unsuited to certain parts ought not to be given those parts to play. According to her view, the important consideration is not the art or the artistic growth of the interpreter, but the effect of the interpretation on the audience. That actor should be chosen who most closely can realize the author's conception. In other words, the play's the thing, not the actor.

In that delightful novel, "The Story of a Play," Mr. W. D. Howells tells how his dramatist-hero was disturbed because the personality of the actress who played the chief part in his comedy, "rubbed off on the part." She was probably not suited to play it. Another actress might have been found who could have got nearer. But no matter what actress might have been chosen, something of her personality would have changed the qualities of the character.

Nowadays some managers, in their desire for effects in acting that shall seem to be natural, discourage the use of wigs and elaborate makeup. The actors for young parts must be really young; the old actors must play characters that are old. When actors apply for engagements they're inspected as if they were cattle, an ordeal sometimes humiliating. But, on the whole, the results are an improvement, in line with the effort to draw the theater closer to everyday life. For the actor the only consolation is that he is sacrificed in the cause of art, but this kind of circumstance is seldom recognized where there is involved the loss of advantage.

When personality in acting is discussed, one is sure to hear the name of John Drew. He is regarded as the ideal example of the actor who always acts himself. Those who criticize him for this reason forget that it may be just as difficult an artistic feat, perhaps even more difficult, to act oneself as to act some one else. The matter becomes plainer when we think how hard it is for most people to seem unconscious under circumstances that make them self-conscious. There is a vast difference between being oneself in everyday life and being oneself on the stage. In amateur theatricals refined and graceful women often seem crude and awkward. So John Drew's being himself on the stage, far from being the simple thing that it seems, is really an artistic achievement and reveals the accomplished performer.

## No Pretense.

At any rate, in condemning the savagery on the other side of the Rio Grande, it is only fair to the Mexicans to reflect that they never pretended to Kultur.—Providence Journal.

## Made It Hot for the Captain.

When the West Virginia was commissioned it rapidly developed into what the men called a "madhouse." The captain, a disciplinarian of the old school, was trying to put new wrinkles in old bottles by enforcing antiquated regulations. The situation was similar to what might be expected from an attempt to enforce the Connecticut blue laws. The ship was so hot you could have lit your cigarette on the stanchions. The captain boasted he would make it still hotter. One morning, just after anchoring in the most conspicuous berth in New York harbor—in view of the Battery, Staten Island, Hoboken, and a score of large ferries—the West Virginia had this placard on its side in red letters reaching from the water line to the main deck, "Uncle Sam's Madhouse. Capt. Blank in Charge." Here was a great ship shamed, disgraced, before a million eyes. Capt. Blank was mad as a Danbury hatter, and doubtless would have had his due revenge by making it still hotter, but the Navy Department had the good sense to give the captain a new command, with time to cool off between jobs.—Chicago Tribune.

# OUR COUNTRY—OUR PRESIDENT

## A History of the American People

### WOODROW WILSON

#### SHIFTING THE SCENE.

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WHEN winter came Colonel Hamlin, the British commander at Detroit, came south into the forest with a motley force of five hundred men, mixed of regulars, Tories, Indians, such as St. Leger had taken against Stanwix, and occupied Vincennes again, upon the Wabash; but Clark struck once more, sent his boats up the river, seized his picked force straight across the frozen forests from Kaskaskia by the Mississippi; and by the end of February, 1779, Colonel Hamlin and all his levy were his prisoners.

The Illinois country was added to Virginia, and the grant of her ancient charter, "up into the land, west and northwest," seemed made good again by the daring of her frontiersmen. He could have taken Detroit itself, Clark declared, with but a few hundred men.

While he cleared the northern rivers of the British arms a force like his would have cleared the Hudson of the British, and the too closely guarded Natchez, and cleared the southern reaches of the great stream.

That winter had witnessed a sharp shifting of the scene of the war in the east.

The British commanders there had turned away from General Washington, and the Hudson to try for better fortune in the far south.

In December, 1778, Clinton sent thirty-five hundred men from New York to the southern coast by sea, and on the 29th Savannah was taken, with comparative ease, there being no resistance.

The town once taken, it proved an easy matter, at that great remove from the center of the American people, to keep the country back of it during the early weeks of 1779. But after that came delay again, and inaction, as of those who wait and doubt, and do not do.

The new year saw nothing else decisive done.

Harry Lee stormed Paulus Hook in like fashion, and the British were nowhere very easy within their lines. But, for the rest, there was little to break the monotony of waiting for news of the war at England's door, where the fleets of the allies threatened.

Without the co-operation of a naval force it was impossible for Washington to do anything against Sir Henry at New York.

Tomorrow: The Fighting at Sea.

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# Doings of Society

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